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FIGHT ON M'COMAS

Maryland Senatorial Contest Marked by Unusual Bitterness.

ELEVEN BOLTERS IN CONTROL

They Can Prevent an Election as Long as They Please.

RUMORS ABOUT GORMAN

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

STATE HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS, Md., January 5.—The fight against Judge Louis E. McComas for the seat in the Senate now held by Senator Arthur P. Gorman is the most intense and bitter witnessed here in a generation since the famous contest between McComas and Gorman in 1888.

Within the past twenty-four hours the whole character of the contest has changed, and while the trouble over the speakership of the house of delegates is interesting, the senatorial battle fills the whole background, to the exclusion of almost everything else.

It seems that no measurements of Durrant's head have been made.

The condemned man has made the following request concerning the execution.

First, That the rope used to hang him should be destroyed immediately after his death, so that no person can say that he holds a piece of it.

Second, That none of the spectators shall be allowed to gaze upon his features after he is hanged.

Third, That no autopsy shall be held after death, and that no physician be allowed to examine his body.

Fourth, That after he is pronounced dead his body shall be delivered to his parents as soon as possible.

MINISTER SIFTON TELLS RESULT OF HIS TRIP HERE.

VICTORIA, B. C., January 5.—The secretary of the board of trade in receipt of the following message from Minister of the Interior Sifton at Ottawa: "I have just returned from Washington, where I have completed arrangements insuring the passage of Canadian goods by way of Dyea and Skagway without charge for inspection."

Assistant Secretary Howell was today shown the announcement from Mr. Sifton, minister of the interior at Ottawa, stating that he had arranged for the passage of Canadian goods across American territory via Dyea and Skagway without inspection charges.

Mr. Howell said that the question was still before the department. It was the desire of Secretary Gage and himself to provide all reasonable customs facilities for miners and others from one point in the British possessions to another en route to the coast of Pennsylvania.

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DURRANT'S HOPE RENEWED

His Friends Making Strenuous Efforts to Delay Execution.

Scientific Men Disappointed That No Autopsy Will Be Allowed—Considered as Significant.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., January 5.—Theodore Durrant has renewed his hope of escaping the gallows, since the federal judges have taken his latest petition for a writ of habeas corpus under advisement.

Strong pressure is being exerted to induce Governor Budd to either commute the sentence or grant a reprieve.

Chief Justice Beatty of the supreme court, who dissented from decisions of his colleagues against Durrant, visited the governor yesterday, but the result of the conference is not known.

Scientific men, who are interested in the pathological features of Durrant's case, are grievously disappointed at the prospect that no autopsy will be allowed on the remains.

Dr. John W. Robertson, the celebrated chemist, has received a commission from the American Journal of Insanity to prepare an elaborate treatise on the case.

He is firmly impressed with the extraordinary character of Durrant as a study in psychopathy, and regrets that a post-mortem examination of the head of the condemned man cannot be made.

The fact that Durrant, having been well advanced as a medical student should have made a positive request that no examination be made of his face or head after death is commented on as a significant feature of the case.

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THE NEW MARSHAL

Aulick Palmer Nominated by the President.

MANY IMPORTANT PLACES FILLED

A Large Number of Callers at the White House.

OFFICES IN VIRGINIA

The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate: Justice—Francis C. Lowell, to be United States district judge for the district of Massachusetts; Henry L. Burnett, to be attorney of the United States for the southern district of New York.

To be marshals of the United States—William Henkel, for the southern district of New York; Aulick Palmer, for the district of Columbia; Wm. Edgar Sterne, for the district of Kansas; George Louis Siebright, for the western district of Texas; Frederick C. Leonard, for the western district of Pennsylvania.

State—Owen L. W. Smith of North Carolina, to be minister resident and consul general of the United States to Liberia; James G. Stowe of Missouri, to be consul general of the United States at Capetown Cape of Good Hope; Herbert G. Squiers of New York, to be secretary of the legation of the United States at Peking, China.

To be consuls of the United States—Adolph L. Frankenthal of Massachusetts, at Bern, Switzerland; Neal McMillan of

The district attorneyship of the same district has been vacant some time, but no agreement has been reached. Col. J. Hampton is the candidate of Col. J. Hampton and Mr. Scott. The candidate of Judge Wadwell is J. L. Gleason.

The president decided to appoint N. C. Nichols as postmaster at Leesburg, Va. The position was made vacant by the death of Postmaster Norris. Mr. Nichols is an Ohio man, and has been postmaster here for four years. There were seven or eight candidates for the place and Collector Agnew was to have named the man, but he was unable to do so. Mr. Nichols agreed upon. He will have to take a back seat, however.

President McKinley has promised Representative Oley Virginia to give the pardon application of Walker G. Hummer, convicted in Lynchburg about four years ago of bank embezzlement and sentenced to five years in prison, his sentence was commuted to four years by President Cleveland, and will expire in March. His pardon at this time will restore his citizenship.

NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

Will Be Handicapped by Inability to Speak English.

The French embassy has been notified by cable that the new French ambassador, M. Cambon, sailed on the Gasconne from Havre last Saturday and will arrive in New York the latter part of this week.

He will remain in New York a few days and will come to Washington the middle of next week. The presentation of his credentials to the President will be made the following week.

The French consul general, Mr. Braewert, has been here for several days, in conference with Reciprocity Commissioner Kason, furthering details of the reciprocity arrangement between France and this country. The essential points, however, cannot be arranged until the ambassador arrives, as he comes direct from Paris, where it is supposed that the ambassador will be given instructions as to how far the demands of the United States for a modification of the restrictions on American cattle and that product in Hamburg and other countries, one of the first of recent ambassadors who does not speak English, and this to some extent will limit the freedom of intercourse with State Department officials.

Although the department is not advised, there is little hope that France will consent to the proposed reciprocity bill, in view of the recent action of the chamber of deputies in passing a government measure to advance the duties on meat products.

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A PESSIMIST TALKS

Views of a Spanish Gentleman in Havana.

A GLOOMY OUTLOOK FOR THE ISLAND

Little Understanding as to Popular Government.

AUTONOMY NOT A SUCCESS

(Copyright, 1898, by Charles M. Pepper.)

Correspondence of The Evening Star.

HAVANA, January 1, 1898. Atoms in chaos, confusion as to the individuals in the present condition of Cuban affairs. No man, no set of men, can either control or guide the influences which seem to be shaping the destiny of Spain in the Antilles.

Those who drift with events know that at any moment they may be swept over the rapids. Those who stand on the shore know that it is useless for them to cry out warnings. The current has become a cat's paw. They can close their eyes if they will. Some do not choose to close their eyes. An evening passed in the home of one of these gave me a vivid impression of the intensity of despair that has settled over the Spanish classes in Cuba.

The treasures, luxury and culture in that home might shut out all thought of the wretchedness of war, famine and pestilence which is spread over the island. The fortunate ones are not suffering by the insurrection which has brought ruin and poverty to so many others of good estate. He is so situated that he will not suffer. In his own person he might discuss the problems and the prospects of the future with cynical philosophy. But in despair there is neither cynicism nor philosophy.

Commonly, the anonymous interview is not a valuable contribution to public knowledge. In present circumstances it is the only means of uncovering real sentiment. Some persons of prominence are ready with manufactured opinions that autonomy will succeed. That it is succeeding they do not say. Their views are all cast in the same mold. They reflect an aspiration, rather than an analysis of what is going on around them. Opinions hostile to the government policy do not find open utterance. In present circumstances the reign of autonomy has not brought the respect of free speech and a free press. This preface is necessary to explain why I do not quote by name the Spaniard whose comment on the questions of the hour is herewith recorded. It is worth stating that his support would have been welcomed by the Sagasta ministry. He has not placed himself in the attitude of an opponent, but, like other influential members of the Spanish class, declares he is not in harmony with the new order. His influence is both feared and respected. I may add that his means of knowing what is happening are not to be doubted. I have had occasion to test both their completeness and their accuracy.

One Spaniard's Views. "My home is not an insurgent camp," said the host that evening as he handed me a cigar, "so you may talk autonomy if you will and I pledge that you shall go out unharmed. We may quarrel before, but through over your country and my country—'cosas de Espana' and 'cosas de los Estados Unidos,' but let it not be over a bone without meat. What can I tell you about autonomy?"

He could tell me nothing on that subject. I knew his position beforehand, and in fairness would not have selected him to exploit the principles of the new political system. So we passed quickly from autonomy to other matters, passing only long enough for him to pay personal tribute to the sincerity and unselfishness of the historic autonomist leaders. I asked for a statement of present conditions and future prospects for Cuba and for Spain.

"Present conditions," said my host, repeating my question, "self-deed, individual self-deed, national self-deed. Do not call it duplicity. That implies it is practiced on others, and if you in the states call names on our return, we will suffer for it. They complain in Spain that they were deceived while General Weyler was here. Are they better off now? We read of Sagasta and the cabinet being occupied with the coming peace in Cuba, with the expected presentation of insurgent chiefs, with the news of improvement in commerce. You do not believe it because you are here and can see for yourself. The palace does not believe it, the army in Cuba knows it is not so, but they want to believe it in Spain and they deceive themselves."

"For myself," he continued, "I shall no longer practice self-deed. Eight months ago I wanted the insurrection to end and I said the end would come within a year. I was wrong. Now I do not say it would have ended by May if General Weyler had remained. I do not believe it would have ended by May if the insurrection had renewed itself since General Blanco came. It is not military policy to permit the army to strengthen himself while you are preparing to disarm him by a new system of civil government. That is what has happened. In what other country could the Ruiz killing have occurred? He was my friend. I mourn his loss and I denounce the insurgents for killing him, but what kind of military authority have we which permitted him to go out to his death and then today they have neither the forces nor the resources for following up success. The war will go on as it has been going on. For Spain is also able to maintain it. All I mean to say is that autonomy has accomplished nothing in the direction of peace."

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THE HAWAIIAN TREATY

It Will Be Called Up in the Senate Executive Session Monday.

SUPPORTERS OF THE MEASURE HOPEFUL

of Getting the Necessary Sixty Votes.

Little Understanding as to Popular Government.

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UNION OF INTERESTS

Proposed Merging of Several of the City Street Railroads.

SOME OF THE CURRENT GOSSIP

A Consolidation of All Lines a Probability of the Future.

IT WILL BE CHEAPER

Recently it was stated in The Star that it was proposed to ask Congress for legislation which would enable the Eckington and Soldiers' Home Railway Company to acquire the Washington and Maryland road, the line of which is along Rhode Island avenue extended from 4th street east to the District line, and also that portion of the Columbia and Maryland railroad from the District line to Lake-

land, Md. As announced at the time, the consolidation of the road is to have a new name. There is no change in the program, as far as known, but there is a possibility of the matter which is the subject of more or less talk in local railroad circles just now. It is understood that quite recently a proposition was made to Mr. O. T. Crosby, who is a member of the syndicate that now controls the road above mentioned, to include several other roads in this scheme of consolidation.

The Railroads Included. The railroads mentioned were the Anacostia road, the Brightwood road and the Georgetown and Tenleytown road, with a contemplated cross town road from the Eckington road along L or M street to the line of the Georgetown and Tenleytown road.

It was